

Message Text

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ACTION ACDE-00

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S E C R E T USNATO 0190

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: SPC DISCUSSION JANUARY 16 ON EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL

1. SPC DISCUSSED EASTERN FREEZE

PROPOSAL AT ITS MEETING OF JANUARY 16

2. UK REP (LOGAN) INTRODUCED A PAPER PROPOSING AN ALLIED COUNTER-PROPOSAL "FOR A GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER FREEZE WHICH WOULD COME INTO EFFECT FROM THE MOMENT THAT A PHASE I AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED" (TEXT REPORTED SEPTEL). UK REP IN INTRODUCING THIS UK COUNTER-PROPOSAL TERMED THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEM IN MBFR FOR THE ALLIES, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR EARLY GUIDANCE TO THE AHG.

3. ITALIAN REP (SPINELLI) SAID HE PERSONALLY LIKED THE UK COUNTER-PROPOSAL, AND HE THOUGHT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD, SINCE

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IT WAS SO CLOSELY TIED TO THE PREVIOUS ALLIED PROPOSALS OF NON-INCREASE COMMITMENTS ON GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER.

4. NETHERLANDS REP (BUWALDA) REITERATED DUTCH OPPOSITION TO

OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL, AND SAID HE ALSO LIKED THE UK COUNTER-PROPOSAL.

5. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID THAT ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE WAS ALMOST SURE THAT BONN WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO THE UK COUNTER-PROPOSAL, SINCE IT WENT VERY FAR TOWARD MEETING FRG CONCERN THAT THE ALLIES NOT REJECT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OUTRIGHT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOT GETTING INTO A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF A FREEZE UNRELATED TO REDUCTIONS. (COMMENT: FRG REP TOLD US PRIOR TO THE MEETING THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN TO MAKE FAVORABLE REMARKS CONCERNING THE UK COUNTER-PROPOSAL. END COMMENT)

6. CANADIAN REP (ROY) SAID, WITHOUT EXPLICITLY ADDRESSING THE UK COUNTER-PROPOSAL, THAT HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THAT ALLIES COULD SATISFY PUBLIC OPINION BY INFORMING IT THAT THE ALLIES COULD ACCEPT THE EASTERN FREEZE IF THE BASIC ALLIED CONSIDERATIONS STATED IN THE ORIGINAL NAC GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT WERE ACCOMMODATED.

7. COMMENT: THE UK COUNTER-PROPOSAL OF JANUARY 16 IS VERY CLOSE TO THE NAC GUIDANCE ON THE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENTS ON GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER. THE ALLIES REMAIN OPPOSED TO OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. THE AHG NEEDS GUIDANCE ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL FOR USE AT THE OUTSET OF THE NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION, I.E. IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS. MISSION CONSIDERS THE UK COUNTER-PROPOSAL A USEFUL BASIS FOR SPC CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. BRUCE

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